

# **B. F. Smith Foundation**



## **Ag Initiative Grant Grant #X984545-98-0-MS EPA Region 4 Pesticide Section**

### **Final Report**

B. F. Smith Foundation  
Delta F.A.R.M.  
433 Stoneville Road  
P.O. Box 257  
Stoneville, MS 38776

Bruce Brumfield, Chairman  
B. F. Smith Foundation

W. A. Percy, II, Chairman  
Delta F.A.R.M.

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# **1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Report**

## **Executive Summary**

Delta F.A.R.M. began operation in 1997 under the direction of Delta Wildlife Foundation. In March of 1998, the B. F. Smith Foundation assumed Delta F.A.R.M. from Delta Wildlife Foundation. This report includes those activities of Delta F.A.R.M. during the months of January and February under Delta Wildlife and March through December under the B. F. Smith Foundation.

Delta F.A.R.M. continued to craft its program in the early months of 1998. The Steering Committee and Staff met with numerous cooperative agencies to compile the information necessary to develop the comprehensive agriculture/environmental program. In June, Delta F.A.R.M. printed and began the distribution of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Program Manual. The manual will serve as the operational tool of the program and includes useful information such as the Program Protocol, BMP Questionnaire, Summary of Current Environmental Laws, BMP Reference Guide, and an Emergency Response Plan.

An Evaluation was also developed by the Steering Committee and Staff to document the current non-regulatory environmental efforts of producers in the Northwest Mississippi area. Each member will be evaluated annually by the Delta F.A.R.M. Staff, Mississippi State University Extension Service, or Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

A Pilot Program was initiated immediately following the formal establishment of the Program Manual. Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation members and Delta Council members were contacted and asked to serve as Pilot Members of Delta F.A.R.M. The Pilot Program was used to ensure the legitimacy of the program and its successful operation. The Pilot Members were also asked to help educate neighboring farmers in their area about the program to help facilitate a future general membership campaign. 114,000 acres were enrolled through the Pilot Program.

In October, the B. F. Smith Foundation officially announced the Delta F.A.R.M. to the media and public during Delta F.A.R.M.'s kickoff event. Over 120 producers, cooperators, sponsors, and media members were on hand for the event. Speakers included the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Lester Spell and the Vice-President of Novartis Crop

Protection, John Barnett. The next day, producer media members were invited to attend farm tours, which highlighted conservation efforts of area producers. In addition, a video was produced by the Delta Design Group to help Delta F.A.R.M. educate the public about the program and was shown at the event.

Following the formal kickoff in October, Delta F.A.R.M. began its general membership campaign. Members were enrolled throughout the Delta. The total membership of 1998 accounted for more than 161,000 acres, approximately 6% of the total farmland in the Delta.

During the winter months, the Delta F.A.R.M. Staff began evaluating each of the 1998 members. Delta F.A.R.M. documented all the current non-regulatory conservation practices that have already been implemented in the region and established the 1998 Environmental Stewardship Database was established.

Throughout the year, Delta F.A.R.M. provided information and technical assistance to those members who were interested in implementing additional conservation practices or improving existing ones. Numerous practices were implemented through the program. Additionally, Committee members and Staff toured the region making presentations in order to better educate both the farming community and the public on the environmental efforts of the program.

In late December, Delta F.A.R.M. established its by-laws and outlined its goals and objectives. The by-laws will serve to direct and guide the association throughout its existence as it operates under the B. F. Smith Foundation.

Delta F.A.R.M. and the B. F. Smith Foundation found financial support in 1998 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, Novartis Crop Protection, Delta & Pine Land Company, FMC Corporation, and Farmers Grain Terminal. The total expenditures of Delta F.A.R.M. and the B. F. Smith Foundation reached \$64,000.00 in 1998, well under the projected '98 budget of \$75,000.00.

## **1998 B. F. Smith Foundation Board of Directors**

Bruce Brumfield  
Chairman

Chip Morgan  
Secretary

R. B. Flowers  
Director

William Houston, III  
Director

W. A. Percy, II  
Director

## **1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee**

W. A. Percy, II  
Chairman

Dan Branton  
Director

Jimmie Dick Carter  
Director

Laurance Carter  
Director

Travis Satterfield  
Director

Mike Sturdivant, Jr.  
Director

## **1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Staff**

Jodie Bledsoe  
Program Coordinator (*resigned March 1998*)

Trey Cooke  
Executive Director (*appointed May 1998*)

Roanne Davenport  
Financial Director (*12% time commitment*)

Tina Manning  
Secretarial Assistant (*9% time commitment*)

## **1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Members**

Ross Planting Co.	Carter Plantation Ltd.
Trail Lake Enterprises	Riverside Plantation
Greenland Plantation	Gant and Sons Farms
Aqua Farms	Tribbett Farms
Metcalf and Weathers Planting Co.	Saint Rest Planting Co.
Holly Ridge Planting Co.	Isola Plantation
Due West Reynolds	Due West Duckland
Due West Vance	Due West Home
Delta Research and Extension Center	Reed Farms
Silver Creek Plantation	Simmons Planting Co.
Kansas Planting Co.	Mound Planting Co.
Kay Planting Co.	Perthshire Farms
Jordan Planting Co.	FTB Farms
Brumfield Planting Co.	Flowers & Parker Farms
Allendale Planting Co.	K&G Farms
McKnight Farms	Satterfield Farms
Baconia Plantation	Egermont Farms
Bell Farms	Sabill Farms
McClintock Companies	Denton Farms
Naron Farms Inc.	Perry Estate
Mitchner Planting Co.	

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1998 Membership Acres

161,629

## **1998 Environmental Stewardship Report**

The 1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report presents data collected from the 1998 Evaluations. This data is in composite form, reflecting the overall stewardship level of the Program itself and all the acres enrolled in the Program.

### *1998 General Statistics*

Total Acres Evaluated:	161,629 (approx. 6% of total farmland in Northwest Mississippi)
Total Farms Evaluated:	41
Distribution:	Northern Most Point, Tunica, MS Southern Most Point, Cary, MS Eastern Most Point, Greenwood, MS Western Most Point, Greenville, MS
Crop Type and Acres:	Cotton: 68,968 Soybeans: 50,806 Rice: 12,991 Corn: 10,781 Catfish: 5,450 Wheat: 4,107 Other: 10,182* *(riparian areas and minor crops such as milo)



## *1998 Evaluation Results*

The percentages (%) shown below represent the number of farms in the Delta F.A.R.M. Program that implemented, maintained, and/or improved a specific conservation practice in 1998.

<b>BMP or Conservation Effort</b>	<b>Utilization Percentage (%)</b>
Soil Conservation Plan	93.75%
Conservation Buffers <sup>1</sup>	97.06%
Terracing or Contour Farming <sup>2</sup>	100%
Conservation Tillage <sup>3</sup>	94.12%
Water Control Structures	88.24%
Crop Residue Management	100%
Sub-Soiling	97.06%
Cover Crops	50%
Land Forming	100%
Plant Trees	60%
Straight Levee	87.06%
Water Quality Testing	55%
Surface or Tail-water Recovery	57.58%
Back Siphon Check Valves	90.63%
Closed Mixing Systems	81.82%
Pesticide Container Disposal <sup>4</sup>	96.97%
Emergency Response Plan on File	100%
Recycling Programs	100%
Wildlife Management	70%
Leave Crops for Wildlife	90%
Plant Wildlife Food Plots	90.91%
Flood Fields in Winter	86.67%
Manage Wildlife Habitat	100%

Conservation Buffers<sup>1</sup>

Includes filter strips and grass waterways.

Terracing or Contour Farming<sup>2</sup>

Is recommended on sloping lands of 5-8%;

Very few fields in the region qualify;

Those that did, do practice either terracing or contour farming;

Contour rice farming is not a conservation practice;

And contour rice farming is not included.

Conservation Tillage<sup>3</sup>

Includes any reduced tillage practices like minimum or no-till.

Pesticide Container Disposal<sup>4</sup>

Includes the proper rinsing, storage, and disposal of containers.

### *1998 Evaluation Summary*

As a composite percentage, the 1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Level is 81.47%. Roughly translated, this means the 1998 membership of Delta F.A.R.M. currently implements 81.47% of the conservation practices the Program advocates leaving 18.53% for improvements. Ultimately, Delta F.A.R.M. would like to reach a stewardship level of 100%. However, as additional conservation practices are implemented and the overall stewardship level increases, Delta F.A.R.M. must also work to improve and expand existing conservation practices.

The 1998 Environmental Stewardship Level will serve as a benchmark to measure the success of the program in coming years as well as environmental improvements at the farm level.

# **1999 Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Report**

## **Executive Summary**

As Delta F.A.R.M. ushered in 1999, the organization's staff was busy completing the 1998 Environmental Evaluations of its membership. Following the completion of the Evaluations, Delta F.A.R.M. staff developed the first Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report which was presented at the first Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Meeting held in the Delta Council conference room on April 9, 1999.

Sponsors, cooperators, supporters, and Delta F.A.R.M. members all attended the Annual Meeting. W. A. Percy, II presided over the meeting as the 1998 progress report was presented by Mike Sturdivant, Jr. Following the progress report, Trey Cooke presented the 1998 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report in its entirety. W. A. Percy, II then presented five Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Awards to those Delta F.A.R.M. members who scored above 90% on the Delta F.A.R.M. Evaluation. Winners included the Delta Research and Extension Service Farm, Due-West Home, Simmons Planting Co., Gant and Sons Farms, and Carter Farms Ltd. Mike Sturdivant, Jr. concluded the meeting by presenting the 1998 Financial Report to the attendees.

Throughout the summer months, Delta F.A.R.M. continued to enroll additional members and acres into the program. Delta F.A.R.M. enrollment reached nearly 300,000 acres by December of 1999 after only 18 months of operation.

Signs donated by Novartis Crop Protection Company, which featured the Delta F.A.R.M. logo and a Delta F.A.R.M. member's farm name, were placed throughout the Delta. 30 signs were erected throughout the Delta. Plans have been made to erect additional signs in 2000.

Throughout the year, Delta F.A.R.M. provided information and technical assistance to those members who were interested in implementing additional conservation practices or improving existing ones. Numerous practices were implemented through the program including two tail water recovery systems and several grass filter strips. Additionally, Committee members and staff

toured the region making presentation in order to better educate both the farming community and the public on the environmental efforts of the program.

Delta F.A.R.M. worked to improve farmer relations with governmental regulatory agencies as staff and Delta F.A.R.M. members hosted numerous tours for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Bureau of Plant Industry.

Beginning in December 1999, Delta F.A.R.M. began to Evaluate its 1999 membership. After all evaluations are completed in early 2000, a 1999 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report will be developed, printed, presented, and distributed to all interested parties. The 1999 Annual Delta F.A.R.M. meeting will be held in April of 2000, pending the completion of the 1999 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report.

In 1999, Delta F.A.R.M. found financial support through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Novartis Crop Protection, Delta and Pine Land Company, and FMC Corporation. Total expenditures of Delta F.A.R.M. and the B. F. Smith Foundation were once again well below budgeted levels.

## **1999 B. F. Smith Foundation Board of Directors**

Bruce Brumfield  
Chairman

Chip Morgan  
Secretary

Fred Ballard  
Director

Bobby Carson  
Director

R. B. Flowers  
Director

Harley Metcalfe  
Director

Lester Myers  
Director

Griffin Norquist  
Director

W. A. Percy, II  
Director

Tom Robertson  
Director

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Director

Dan Branton  
Director

Jimmie Dick Carter  
Director

Travis Satterfield  
Director

Mike Sturdivant, Jr.  
Director

## **1999 Delta F.A.R.M. Staff**

Trey Cooke  
Executive Director

Gayden Pollan  
Field Conservationist (*appointed August 1, 1999*)

Roanne Davenport  
Financial Director (*12% time commitment*)

Tina Manning  
Secretarial Assistant (*9% time commitment*)

Mary Sluder  
Secretarial Assistant (*as needed*)

## **1999 Delta F.A.R.M. Members**

Ross Planting Co.  
Trail Lake Enterprises  
Greenland Plantation  
Aqua Farms  
Metcalf and Weathers Planting Co.  
Holly Ridge Planting Co.  
Due West Reynolds  
Due West Vance  
Delta Research and Extension Center  
Silver Creek Plantation  
Kansas Planting Co.  
Kay Planting Co.  
Jordan Planting Co.  
Brumfield Planting Co.  
Allendale Planting Co.  
McKnight Farms  
Baconia Plantation  
Bell Farms  
McClintock Companies  
Naron Farms Inc.  
Mitchner Planting Co.  
Arrowhead Planting Co.  
Egypt Planting Co.  
Johnson Estate  
Murtagh-Walker Farms  
Gourlay Joint Venture  
Co Co. Planting Co.  
Fewell Planting Co.  
River Bend Farms  
Locust Grove Planting Co.  
Harris Land and Cattle Co.  
Beckham Bros.  
Jones Planting Co.  
Anderson Planting Co.  
Lakewood  
Anthony Planting Co.

Carter Plantation Ltd.  
Riverside Plantation  
Gant and Sons Farms  
Tribbett Farms  
Saint Rest Planting Co.  
Isola Plantation  
Due West Duckland  
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Reed Farms  
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Mound Planting Co.  
Perthshire Farms  
FTB Farms  
Flowers & Parker Farms  
K&G Farms  
Satterfield Farms  
Egermont Farms  
Sabill Farms  
Denton Farms  
Perry Estate  
Omega Plantation  
Murrell Farms  
Avalon Planting Co.  
Lake Washington  
Going Home Farms  
Steele Farms  
Billups Plantation  
Dean Inc.  
Whitaker Farms  
Cato Farms  
Norway Farms  
3-A Farms  
Harris Farms  
Robertson Planting Co.  
Baird Planting Co.  
Fratesi Planting Co.

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**284,950 acres enrolled**

## **1999 Activities**

### **January**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss agricultural practices surrounding refuges.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation at the Delta Ag Expo on Pesticide Application Records.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation at the Delta Ag Expo on Total Maximum Daily Loads.

### **February**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to farmers at Airport Grocery in Cleveland on Sedimentation.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to Hollandale Rotary Club at the Front Porch.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with USDA-ARS to discuss agricultural practices in the Delta and research needs.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with farm managers at D&PL and discuss conservation practice implementation on research farms.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. attends USDA-ARS research planning meeting in Denver to discuss conservation agricultural practice research needs.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the USDA-ARS in Denver on agricultural practice research needs in the Delta.

### **March**

- 24<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. Committee meeting to discuss the finalization of the 1998 Environmental Stewardship Report
- 25<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Mississippi Association of Rice Consultants on agricultural practices and regulatory laws.



## **April**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with the legislative staff of several congressmen and senators during the National Cotton Council tour of the Delta to discuss agricultural conservation practices in the Delta.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. attends the North American Water Quality Assessment meeting in Raymond to discuss water quality on the Big Sunflower River.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. first Annual Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. does radio interview to discuss the program and 1998 Environmental Stewardship Award winners.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Charles Chilsom of MDEQ to discuss the program, MDEQ's involvement, and 319 grants. Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Ray Aycock of USFWS to discuss agricultural practices of farm land surrounding refuges.

## **May**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes a presentation to the Ruleville Rotary Club.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. does interview for several newspapers about the 1998 Environmental Stewardship Award winners.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Consolidated Environmental Services in Boyle about their potential roll in Delta F.A.R.M.

## **June**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Ray Aycock of USFWS to further discuss USFWS roll in Delta F.A.R.M. Delta F.A.R.M. also meets with Farm Bureau to discuss 1999 membership campaign.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. attends the Pesticide Stewardship Committee Meeting in Atlanta and meets with Mike McGee about 319 grants.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with YMD to discuss better data management for Environmental Stewardship Report.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Coservation Districts Annual Meeting in Marks.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Leflore County Farm Bureau Board.

## **July**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Carlton Layne of EPA and Robert McCarty of BPI to discuss Delta F.A.R.M., agricultural practices, and TMDLs.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. does interview with Progressive Farmer on Delta F.A.R.M.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Bolivar County Farm Bureau Board.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. holds a membership meeting in Yazoo County
- 12<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. holds a membership meeting in Yazoo County
- 13<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the FMC Producers Information Exchange group at Catfish Point.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. develops a grant in cooperation with the USDA-ARS to research conservation practices.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. hosts Moria McDonald of NFWF.

## **August**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. develops a presentation for USDA-ARS scientists to present at the USDA Water Quality Workshop in Minneapolis.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. host Vicky Boyd of Rice Farming. Delta F.A.R.M. gives tour and is asked to write in Rice Farming for 6 issues in the conservation section.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. hosts Lora Lee Schroeder of the EPA. Delta F.A.R.M. presentation.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. hosts Lora Lee Schroeder of the EPA. Tour Seymour Johnson's farm and meet with Craig Tucker about catfish research.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. hosts Lora Lee Schroeder of the EPA. Meet with USDA-ARS about remote sensing and IPM technology. Meet with tree farmer.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. hosts Lora Lee Schroeder of the EPA. Meet with Robert McCarty and tour MSEA project. Meet with Terry Murrell and tour tail water project.

## **September**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Bill Arnold to develop a tail water recovery system for his farm.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to Greenwood Altrusa International at Yannies on Agricultural Sustainability.

27<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the National Agricultural Leaders conference in the B. F. Smith Auditorium.

## **October**

14<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Farmland Coop and discusses program and their potential involvement.

21<sup>st</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. hosts Richard Ingram of MDEQ and Charlie Cooper of USDA-ARS. Tour Delta F.A.R.M. project sites and discuss Delta F.A.R.M.'s roll in TMDS.

## **November**

16<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with the USCOE at Grenada to discuss agricultural practices surrounding Grenada Lake.

17<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Bob Misso, National WRP Coordinator and tours Delta F.A.R.M. project sites and WRP contracts.

22<sup>nd</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to Moorhead Rotary Club

## **December**

1<sup>st</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with John Stanturf of USDA-FS about a future partnership and grant.

8<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Mississippi Bankers Association on alternative uses of land and conservation.

16<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. meets with Floyd Wood of USDA-NRCS to discuss future partnership.

# **2000 Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Report**

## **Executive Summary**

As Delta F.A.R.M. ushered in 2000, the organization's staff was busy completing the 1999 Environmental Evaluations of its membership. Following the completion of the Evaluations, Delta F.A.R.M. staff developed the first Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report, which was presented at the Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Meeting held in the Delta Council conference room in April of 2000.

Sponsors, cooperators, supporters, and Delta F.A.R.M. members all attended the Annual Meeting. Phil Bass, the Head of the Office of Pollution Control with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality was the keynote speaker and praised the efforts of Delta F.A.R.M. W. A. Percy, II, welcomed Nolen Canon of Tunica as the newest Director of Delta F.A.R.M.. Mike Sturdivant, Jr presented the 1999 progress report. Following the progress report, Trey Cooke presented the 1999 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report in its entirety. W. A. Percy, II then presented the Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Awards to those Delta F.A.R.M. members who scored above 90% on the Delta F.A.R.M. Evaluation. Winners included Due-West Home, Murtaugh – Walker Farms, and Aqua Farms. Mike Sturdivant, Jr. concluded the meeting by presenting the 1999 Financial Report to the attendees.

Throughout the summer months, Delta F.A.R.M. continued to enroll additional members and acres into the program. Delta F.A.R.M. enrollment reached 400,000 acres by December of 2000 after only 30 months of operation.

Signs, which featured the Delta F.A.R.M. logo and a Delta F.A.R.M. member's farm name, were placed throughout the Delta. 20 additional signs were erected in 2000 to add to the 30 that were erected in 1999. Plans have been made to erect additional signs in 2001.

Delta F.A.R.M. provided information and technical assistance to those members who were interested in implementing additional conservation practices or improving existing ones. Numerous practices were implemented through the program. Additionally, committee members and staff toured the region making presentation in order to better educate both the farming community and the public on the environmental efforts of the program.

Delta F.A.R.M. worked closely with MDEQ on TMDL issues over the course of 2000. The organization also spend a great deal of time preparing itself to work on the up coming Farm Bill by beginning conversations with various producer groups, ag industries, regulatory agencies, and conservation group. Delta F.A.R.M. worked to help promote the CRP Continuous Sign Up Program as well.

Beginning in December 2000, Delta F.A.R.M. began to Evaluate its 2000 membership. After all evaluations are completed in early 2001, the 2000 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report will be developed, printed, presented, and distributed to all interested parties. The 2001 Annual Delta F.A.R.M. meeting will be held in May 1, 2001, pending the completion of the 2000 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report.

In 2000, Delta F.A.R.M. found financial support through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Novartis Crop Protection (now Syngenta), Delta and Pine Land Company, and FMC Corporation. Farmers Grain Terminal sponsored the quarterly *Delta Steward* Newsletter. Total expenditures of Delta F.A.R.M. and the B. F. Smith Foundation were once again well below budgeted levels.

## **2000 B. F. Smith Foundation Board of Directors**

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Lester Myers  
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Curt Presley  
Director

Tom Robertson  
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## **2000 Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee**

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Baconia Plantation  
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McClintock Companies  
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Arrowhead Planting Co.  
Egypt Planting Co.  
Johnson Estate  
Murtagh-Walker Farms  
Gourlay Joint Venture  
Co Co. Planting Co.  
Fewell Planting Co.  
River Bend Farms  
Locust Grove Planting Co.  
Harris Land and Cattle Co.  
Beckham Bros.  
Jones Planting Co.  
Anderson Planting Co.  
Baird Planting Co.  
Lakewood  
Anthony Planting Co.  
Ingelside Plantation  
The Bibb Co.  
Battle Farms  
Phillips Bros. Farms  
Helm Plantation Partnership  
Delta Pine Land Co.

Carter Plantation Ltd.  
Riverside Plantation  
Gant and Sons Farms  
Tribbett Farms  
Saint Rest Planting Co.  
Isola Plantation  
Due West Duckland  
Due West Home  
Reed Farms  
Simmons Planting Co.  
Mound Planting Co.  
Perthshire Farms  
FTB Farms  
Flowers & Parker Farms  
K&G Farms  
Satterfield Farms  
Egermont Farms  
Sabill Farms  
Denton Farms  
Perry Estate  
Omega Plantation  
Murrell Farms  
Avalon Planting Co.  
Lake Washington  
Going Home Farms  
Steele Farms  
Billups Plantation  
Dean Inc.  
Whitaker Farms  
Cato Farms  
Norway Farms  
3-A Farms  
Harris Farms  
Robertson Planting Co.  
Chenault Farms  
Arant Acres  
Fratesi Planting Co.  
Trout Lake  
Canon Farms  
Berry Farm Enterprises  
Harper Ross Farms  
Ballard Farms  
Bear Creek Fisheries

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**402,391 Acres enrolled as of December 31, 2000**



## **2000 Activities**

### **January**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Worked with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality on TMDLs issues in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Met with Congressman Chip Pickering to discuss the Delta F.A.R.M. Program and its potential impacts on agriculture in the Mississippi Delta
- 25<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee Meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> Met with the USDA to discuss Atrazine issues.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Met with Rollin Sparrow with the Wildlife Management Institute to discuss conservation programs in the upcoming 2002 Farm Bill
- 27<sup>th</sup> Met with Pete Heard with the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute to discuss possible funding sources for voluntary conservation projects.

### **February**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Worked with the USDA Forest Service to help develop specs for cottonwood trees to be used in CRP Continuous Sign Up
- 10<sup>th</sup> Met with YMD, NRCS, Delta Council, and other research groups to help develop a central computer system of biological and natural resource information to be shared by all interested parties.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Met with DSU Biological Science Dept. to discuss possible spin off research opportunities associated with Delta F.A.R.M. projects.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Worked with computer programmers to help develop a new, more science based data collection and management system for the Delta F.A.R.M. environmental database.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Met with Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to develop a timeline for TMDL establishment in the Mississippi Delta region.

### **March**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Met with ag leaders from all over the Lower Mississippi Valley to discuss the establishment of a larger "Delta F.A.R.M." like initiative for the entire Lower Mississippi Valley. (7 states) Delta F.A.R.M. staff was put on a Committee to help develop the program.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Met with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Bureau of Plant Industry to discuss Temik issues as it related to wildlife.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation at a MSEA Tour in Indianola.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Met with Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to discuss alternative economic revenue sources for farmers through conservation implementation projects.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to Cleveland Rotary Club

## **April**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. make a presentation to the future leaders of agriculture conference in Stoneville held by Mississippi State University.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Meeting, featured speaker, Phil Bass of MDEQ.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Secure EQIP Grant from the NRCS
- 25<sup>th</sup> Met with MDAC-BPI staff and the EPA to discuss IMP implementation in the Delta.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. interview on WIQQ/WNIX radio.

## **May**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Met with Monsanto to discuss Biotechnology and its possible impacts on agricultural conservation efforts.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Met with Monsanto to discuss 2002 Farm Bill Conservation Programs.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Met with NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute to discuss funding for conservation projects.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. Staff participates in a training course for Federal Conservation Programs held by the NRCS.
- 16<sup>th</sup> USDA-FS and Delta F.A.R.M. works on a grant for riparian buffer research.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Met with American Cyanimid to discuss conservation practices and the future of the ag chem. business.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Met with YMD Staff to discuss join projects.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Southern Regional Association of Ag Researchers.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Met with Bolivar Co. NRCS staff to tour EQIP sites.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Met with the Washington Co. Soil and Water Conservation Commission to discuss the development of the Washington County Conservation Demonstration Farm.

## **June**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation at the Leflore Co. (Greenwood) Chamber of Commerce Salute to Agriculture.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the MSU Ag and Forestry Dept leaders.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Met with Delta Council leaders to discuss the 2002 Farm Bill
- 21<sup>st</sup> Work with the USFWS to help develop the Deer Creek Project for the Lower Reaches of Deer Creek. (BMP Project)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Met with the USDA-FSA to discuss the changes in the CRP Continuous Sign Up program.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Met with the FMC Rice Producers Exchange Group to discuss Delta Ag Conservation.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Met with Pete Rouosepolous (USDA-FS) about forestry riparian buffers as conservation practice.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. staff attended a CRP Continuous Sign Up Training with the NRCS.

## **July**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Develop and Print a CRP Continuous Sign Up Brochure for Delta F.A.R.M Members.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Develop and Print the 2000 Program Manual.
- 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Met with various conservation groups in Washington DC to work on the 2002 Farm Bill Conservation Programs.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. Membership Sign Up in Tunica County.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Met with Homer Wilkes to discuss the CRP Continuous Sign Up and the Washington County Conservation Demonstration Farm.

## **August**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the National Association of County Extension Agents
- 12<sup>th</sup> Worked with the Georgia State Extension Service to develop a “Delta F.A.R.M.” like program.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Met with DP&L Co. to discuss implementing Delta F.A.R.M. BMPs on their research farm.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation at the Mid-South Ag Expo in Tunica.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. and Delta Wildlife host a quail management seminar for Delta Landowners.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to MESA project scientists.

## **September**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Met with Monsanto to discuss Biotech issues and conservation.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Met with the new Editor of the Delta Democrat Times to discuss Delta F.A.R.M. and ag conservation efforts in the Delta.

## **October**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Met with MESA scientists again to discuss role of Delta F.A.R.M. in MESA Project.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Met with the MSU Extension Service to discuss the New Porter Bayou Project in Mound Bayou.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Met with the Mississippi Association of Boards of Supervisors to discuss reforestation and carbon sequestration.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to NRCS and Extension Service leader cooperation meeting.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Met with the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation Commission to discuss the Conservation Farm.

## **November**

- 7<sup>th</sup> MDEQ 319 Grant Review Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. makes presentation to the Southern Crop Production Association.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Delta F.A.R.M. made presentation to the Greenwood Lion's Club.

## **December**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Met with the USCOE and MDEQ to discuss 401 and 404 permitting process.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Met with MSU-DREC, NRCS, USFWS, and others to begin developing a conservation plant botanical garden education center in Stoneville.

## **2000 Highlights**

### **2002 Farm Bill**

Delta F.A.R.M. worked throughout the year to promote the development of economically sensible conservation programs in the 2002 Farm Bill that would be beneficial to the farmers, farming industry, ag companies, and the environment. In 2000, Delta F.A.R.M. worked with the biotech industry, seed industry, chemical industry, farmers, farmer organizations, conservation organizations, and federal agencies to identify a balanced approach for conservation efforts in the upcoming Farm Bill.

### **Delta F.A.R.M..... The “Model”**

Although Delta F.A.R.M. is young in age, it has met with significant success in the eyes of the farming, conservation, and regulatory communities. This success has not gone un-noticed as several other regions are beginning to develop similar programs modeled after Delta F.A.R.M. The most significant of these programs may very well be the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Initiative. This program is currently being developed to include all 7 of the Lower Mississippi Valley states and will document current non-regulatory conservation efforts of the greater LMV farming region. Another program, Cornhusker F.A.R.M. (Cornhusker Farmers Advocating Resource Management) is entering its final developmental stages and will be off the ground this year. This Nebraska based program is exactly like Delta F.A.R.M., but exclusively for corn farmers. The Georgia State Extension Service is also beginning to develop a similar program to Delta F.A.R.M. The Georgia Extension Service is currently developing a comprehensive listing of conservation practices (BMPs) for the various different commodities grown in the state. It will eventually begin to document non-regulatory conservation efforts like the Delta F.A.R.M. Program. Delta F.A.R.M. staff has been working with each of these groups to help establish their programs.

## **TMDLs**

With the establishment of TMDLs in the Yazoo-Mississippi Basin, many Delta farmers and residents raise the question.... “What effects will it have on agriculture and our way of life?” Delta F.A.R.M. has been working closely with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to try to answer this question and many others. As the process of TMDL establishment has already begun, Delta F.A.R.M. has been working hard to keep the farming community updated on the status of MDEQ’s TMDL efforts and associated issues. Delta F.A.R.M. will work with MDEQ throughout this process to ensure those who utilize these resources have an opportunity to participate and ultimately help determine the outcome of TMDL associated issues.

## **New Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee Member**

Nolen Canon was elected to serve as the newest member of the Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee. This appointment was made prior to the Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Meeting held in April of 2000. Nolen will represent of Delta F.A.R.M. well as his rice and soybean farm is both extremely productive and environmentally sound. Nolen’s first duties as a new Director of Delta F.A.R.M. included heading up a successful Tunica County Membership Campaign that generated more than 35,000 additional acres for the program.

### **CRP Continuous Sign Up**

One of Delta F.A.R.M.'s primary goals is to help farmer to recognize and implement conservation practices that are both economically viable and environmentally sound. When the new revised CRP Continuous Sign Up Program Incentives Package was announced in April of 2000, Delta F.A.R.M. saw as significant opportunity establish needed riparian buffers near wetlands, rivers, and lakes. The revised program provided adequate economic incentives to farmers to reforest areas adjacent to wetlands, rivers, and lakes to filter agricultural related runoff before it reached local water bodies. Delta F.A.R.M. began working closely with the USDA-FS, USDA-NRCS, USDA-FSA, Delta Council, Farm Bureau, and Delta Wildlife to aggressively promote the program and approve the planting of cottonwoods on these sites for additional economic incentive. Delta F.A.R.M. published and printed a brochure on the program and assisted several landowners in the initiation of the program.